

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 16, 2004 LB 37, 227, 353

placed on Select File; LB 227, LB 353, all on Select File. And, Mr. President, I have the report of registered lobbyists for this week to be inserted in the Legislative Journal. (Legislative Journal pages 307-312.)

Mr. President, an announcement before the Legislature proceeds to the next bill. The Reference Committee will meet underneath the south...north balcony, excuse me, north balcony now; Reference Committee, north balcony now.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Next agenda item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. LB 37 is a bill by Senator Price. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 9 of last year, at that time referred to the Business and Labor Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. At this point, I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Price, you're recognized to open on LB 37.

SENATOR PRICE: Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. LB 37 is a Wage Replacement Savings Plan Act. This is a bill that is intended to help the working people of Nebraska balance their work and their family responsibilities. It would create a program that would encourage Nebraskans to save for the time they need to be at home to attend to family matters. To be more specific, some examples of family matters would be caring for a newborn child, newly adopted children, caring for a seriously ill family member, or their own serious health condition. This bill is an outgrowth of the Family and Medical Leave Act, the federal law that was enacted in 1993. This act was the first time a national policy was established to help working people balance their work and their family responsibilities. Unfortunately, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act had a serious flaw. It lacked a funding mechanism. According to national surveys, about 80 percent of the people who needed to